

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE LOCKHEED--FEB. 23

REF: TOKYO 2561

1. NOTHING WHOLLY NEW DEVELOPED IN THE LOCKHEED CASE OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. THE MAIN MEDIA PLAY FOCUSED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TWO STORIES THAT BEGAN PREVIOUSLY. LOCKHEED STORIES WERE STILL ON FRONTPAGES BUT WERE SIDE PLAY OR BELOW THE FOLD.

2. MOST MONDAY AM PAPAERS REPORTED MOVES BY ALL PARTIES AND THE PARTIES' DIET STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN TO SET THE STAGE FOR THE UNANIMOUS PASSAGE FEB. 23 OF A RESOLUTION BY EACH DIET HOUSE TO US SENATE AND USG REQUESTING INFO ON LOCKHEED PAYMENTS AND NAMES OF IMPLICATED OFFICIALS. RESOLUTION IS ONE OF SEVERAL LDP CONCESSIONS BEING CONSIDERED IN HOPES OF RESUMING NORMAL DIET BUSINESS. IT PASSED BOTH HOUSES MONDAY AFTERNOON AND UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE EXPECTED SOON. BOTH WILL BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR GOJ TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR OBTAINING INFO INCLUDING DISPATCH OF SPECIAL ENVOY. MONDAY PAPERS AND BROADCASTS ALSO RAN STORIES ON CONTINUED LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE STOPPAGE WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES STILL RESISTING ATTEMPTS BY

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NAKASONE ET AL GAIN APPROVAL OF LDP PLANS FOR LOCKHEED INVESTI-

GATION BY SELECT COMMITTEE RATHER THAN FULL BUDGET COMMITTEE. ALL PREDICTED TOUGH SAILING FOR LDP WITH BUDGET BUSINESS UNLIKELY BE RESUMED TILL MIDDLE OF THIS WEEK AT EARLIEST. ALSO CURRENT IN MONDAY PRESS ARE REPORTS FONMIN MIYAZAWA WILL GO TO US AS SPECIAL ENVOY ON LOCKHEED MATTERS.

3. SECOND MAIN STORY WAS JDA DIRGEN SAKATA'S 21 FEB PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING RESULTS OF PROBE OF POSSIBLE LOCKHEED INFLUENCE ON JDA CONCERNING THE OCT. 1972 DECISION TO KEEP FOREIGN PROCUREMENT OF ASW PLANE AS AN OPTION ALONG WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. SAKATA SAID HIS INVESTIGATION "LEAVES NO ROOM FOR SUSPICION". HE ALSO SAID DEPUTY JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL KUBO HAD BEEN GIVEN REPRIMAND FOR "UNCALLED FOR, INACCURATE" STATEMENTS WHICH SEEMINGLY IMPLICATED THEN PM TANAKA IN DECISION TO LEAVE DOOR OPEN FOR LOCKHEED PROCUREMENT. KUBO'S FUTURE REMAINS CLOUDED.

4. MEDIA CONTINUED TO RUN US STORIES ON THE CHURCH, PROXIMIRE-SIMON, SEC ATTITUDES RE RELEASE OF NAMES OF GOJ OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. REPORTS SAY TENDENCY IS TOWARD RELEASE. APPEARING FOR FIRST TIME IN MAJOR WAY WAS STORY BOEING MAY HAVE COMMITTED IRREGULARITIES SIMILAR TO LOCKHEED'S AND DETAILS OR RELATED SEC ACTIONS.
HODGSON

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